

# BULLETIN OF THE TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB Inc.

established 1903.

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The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club encourages the study of natural history and supports conservation. We issue our journal *The Tasmanian Naturalist* annually in October. People with a range of background and knowledge are welcome as members.

Contact Genevieve Gates (03 6227 8638) for further information or write to GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001.

## Programme

General Meetings start at 7.45 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania from Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery entrance in Macquarie Street. Lunch and all-weather outdoor gear are usually required.

*If you are planning to attend an outing but have not been to the meeting prior, phone to check as to the timing of the excursion as sometimes unforeseen changes occur.*

**Reminder;** we encourage members to share rides on excursions. This is usually arranged on the morning of the excursion and a donation of around 5 cents per km travelled towards the driver's expenses is suggested.

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Thurs. 7 October. 7.45p.m.: Jon Marsden-Smedley, a fire protection officer with Parks and Wildlife will talk on the seasonal issue of *Fire in Tasmanian Natural Environments.*

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Saturday 9 October. 8 a.m.: A walk to to McGregor's Peak on the Forestier Peninsula. Please note that some four or more hours of walking of moderate standard is anticipated. There are a variety of vegetation types in the area and we will look for landsnails and fungi, amongst other things. Gloves may be useful for investigating leaf-litter.

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Thurs. 4 November 7.45p.m.: David Leaman will speak on *Time, Life and Risk.* David is a geologist who will discuss some of the major features of the pageant of life on our planet, on a geological time scale.

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November Excursion TBA: As this bulletin goes to press David is unavailable and the excursion details will be finalised at the November meeting. We anticipate a walk led by David illustrating examples of geological features from his talk.

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Thurs. 2 December 7.45p.m.: Members are requested to prepare short contributions to one of our occasional Members' Nights. This is an opportunity to share personal natural history interests. Contributions to a seasonal supper appreciated.

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December Excursion TBA: A walk on LaBillardiere Peninsula, south Bruny Island is planned, with the option of staying over on Bruny for the weekend. This area is renowned for orchids and remains one of the best preserved areas on Bruny.

Thanks to the *Federation* delegates, club organisers and visiting speakers who helped make the last *Federation Weekend Meeting* at Orford such a success.

Winners of this year's *Environment Award for Children's Literature* were announced on 5<sup>th</sup> June (World Environment Day).

This year's winner in the Picture Book section is *Islands in my Garden* by Jim Howes, illustrated by Roland Harvey (Roland Harvey Books). This is an amusing book about the little beasts we can find under logs and stones, in crevices and soil, even in a suburban garden. In this book, though, there are some unlikely ones too.

The winner in the Non-Fiction section is a series produced by the Gould League of Victoria. They are small and not too expensive soft-cover guides for young kids; *Australian Guide to Pondlife* and *Australian Guide to Seashores* are recent titles. They show, mostly with good, clear photos, some of the creatures you are likely to find (e.g. shark eggs on the seashore), and include photos of kids out there finding things and having fun.

The *Environment Award* is Australia-wide and was inaugurated in 1994 by a couple of Tasmanians. It is sponsored by the *Wilderness Society*. The short listed books are well worth a read.

Janet Fenton, (Co-organiser and member of the judging panel).

Following comments on the *State of the Environment* process in the last *Bulletin*, the club has received feedback from the responsible officers. We may be represented on committees responsible for the next edition of these recurrent publications, with potential to contribute to prioritisation of Tasmanian conservation issues.

Max Banks will present an extended version of his *In the Footsteps of Darwin* lecture series as a summer school in late January 2000. The course, covering aspects of Tasmanian geology and history, will be run through Jane Franklin Hall and extend over 5 days. Enquire at a meeting for further details.

The Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts is presenting a display of *Ferdinand Bauer; Natural History Drawings 1801-1803*. Bauer was selected by Sir Joseph Banks, on the basis of his reputation as an illustrator, to join the *Investigator* expedition. This exhibition comprises high quality facsimile plates of Bauer's finished illustrations of Australian fauna. They are the only copies held in Tasmania and are highly recommended.

Launceston Field Naturalists are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the weekend of October 23-24 with a Saturday evening dinner followed next day by an excursion to Myrtle Park (scene of the club's first outing) and a barbecue at *Skemp's*, Myrtle Bank, at 1230. RSVP Dr Al Pegler 6344 1076 (phone / fax).

**Subs:** after several years of pegged subs the time has come .... New rates from year 2000 are as follow

*Naturalist* only individuals \$15, libraries \$20 (overseas \$25)

Membership individuals \$25, families \$30, concession / junior \$20.

Subs are Due by the end of the year.